

Claims:

The following listing of claims replaces all prior presentations or listing of claims.

Claims 1-59 (cancelled).

60. (Currently Amended) An ear probe tip for a probe which can be inserted into an ear canal, the probe having an outer surface, a length to be covered by the ear probe tip and a probe end, the ear probe tip comprising:

a body portion of substantially the same length as the length of the probe to be covered and having a first end and a second end;

a passage formed within the body portion, the passage having a first opening at the first end, a second opening at the second end and a surface extending within the body portion between the first opening and the second opening, the passage being configured to receive the probe such that when the probe is received within the passage the surface is disposed about the probe, is substantially in contact with the probe along the length to be covered and the second opening is proximate to the probe end;

an outer surface of the body portion; and

a plurality of ~~annular flanges formed on~~ extending substantially perpendicularly from the outer surface, each of the plurality of annular flanges having a diameter, the diameter of adjacent annular flanges decreasing in size from the first end toward the second end, wherein a flange closest to the second opening is offset from the second end.

61. (Previously presented) The ear probe tip of claim 60, wherein the passage comprises one of a frusto-conical shape and a cylindrical shape.

62. (Previously presented) The ear probe tip of claim 60, wherein the body portion comprises a frusto-conical shape.

63. (Currently Amended) The ear probe tip of claim 60, wherein at least one ~~the~~ annular flange comprises a substantially circular shape.

64. (Previously presented) The ear probe tip of claim 60, wherein each of the plurality of annular flanges is disposed substantially perpendicular to the body portion.

65. (Canceled) ~~The ear probe tip of claim 60, wherein the plurality of annular flanges are disposed proximate to a middle portion of the body portion.~~

66. (Previously presented) The ear probe tip of claim 60, the first opening comprising a chamfer.

67. (Previously presented) The ear probe tip of claim 60, the passage having an increased size diameter portion adjacent the first opening.

68. (Previously presented) The ear probe tip of claim 60 further comprising a ring formed on the outer surface adjacent the first end.

69. (Previously presented) The ear probe tip of claim 60, wherein the passage has an incrementally decreasing diameter from the first end toward the second end.

70. (Currently Amended) The ear probe tip of claim 60, wherein the second end extends past the probe end a distance when the probe is received within the passage, the distance the second end extends past the probe end being sufficient to prevent the probe end from contacting a patient's ear upon insertion of the probe into the patient's ear canal and insufficient to form a portion of the acoustic path from the probe end into the patient's ear canal.

71. (Previously presented) The ear probe tip of claim 60, wherein the outer surface as an incrementally decreasing diameter from the first end toward the second end.

72. (Previously presented) The ear probe tip of claim 60, the first end having a surface, the surface being configured to engage a base portion of the probe.

73. (New) A combination ear probe and ear probe tip which can be inserted into an ear canal, comprising:

the ear probe having an outer surface, a length to be covered and a first probe end;

the ear probe tip having a body portion of substantially the same length as the length to be covered and having a first end and a second end;

a passage formed within the body portion, the passage having a first opening at the first end, a second opening at the second end and a surface extending within the body portion between the first opening and the second opening, the passage receiving the probe such that when the probe is disposed within the passage the second opening is proximate to the first probe end;

an outer surface of the body portion; and

a plurality of flanges extending from the outer surface, each of the plurality of annular flanges having a diameter, the diameter of adjacent flanges decreasing in size from the first end toward the second end,

wherein a distance between the first probe end and the second opening is insufficient to form an acoustic channel.